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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Argentina

SUBJECT Lead Mining, Smelting and Refining
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1. "A recent study has been prepared on the lead exploitation in this country. Galena and cerussite are the two principal minerals extracted, the last in small scale. The lead smelting and refining are realized in four plants: Puerto Vilelas (Presidente Peron Province) with the greatest capacity; La Tablada, Mercedes and Avellaneda (Buenos Aires Province). The matte of copper, antimonious lead and metallic silver are the by-products obtained. In the plant of Puerto Vilelas the lead is obtained like ingot with a grade of 99.98% and also as 'chemical type,' to use in some industries.
2. "The mine 'Campana Mahuida' (Bauquen Territory) is one of the principal exploitations in the country. This mine has three main veins with average widths of 0.35m, 0.65m and 0.50m; average grades of 21.23% Pb, 1.15% Zn, 592.7 g/ton Ag; 20.20% Pb, 4.54% Zn, 1002.69 g/ton Ag and 13.5% Pb, 5% Zn, 350 g/ton Ag, respectively. The estimated ore reserves of these veins amount to 5,500 tons (positive mineral and probable-possible).
3. "An aerial conveyor leads the mineral to the plant from the mine. This plant consists of a jaw crusher, ball-mill, trommel, two shaking tables and jiga, treating three tons of ore daily, but will be enlarged to twenty tons per day."

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6. "The combined pulp goes through four separate circuits, each with 1-8' x 8' conditioners followed by 7-56" Fagergren Flot machines. There will be a total of 28-56" Fagergren Flot machines. A clean copper-pyrite bulk float will be the product; the tails discarded. The bulk concentrate will be reground in a strong alkaline circuit, thence the copper float out. The tailings in this operation will be a clean pyrite concentrate. The copper concentrate with a grade of 18% to 22% will be shipped in bulk to Japan, while the pyrite concentrate with a grade of 40%-45% will be disposed of locally, or for export for the manufacture of ammonium sulfite or sulfuric acid.
7. "A three-year agreement with the Mitsubishi Metal Mining Company, Ltd of Japan for the sale of copper concentrate has been signed. Atlas expects to start shipment the middle of next year/1954/.
8. "The Mati iron deposits are in Davao Province on Mindanao Island. They consist of magnetite and pyrite occurrences in sandstone overlying limestone where tertiary diorite dikes have invaded eastward dipping sediments and volcanic flows. The ore reserves as known are as follows: positive ore - 839 thousand tons 62%-66% Fe and sulfur less than 1.00%; positive ore - 727,400 tons 60%-62% Fe and sulfur 1.00% to 4%.
9. "All orebodies are exposed to the surface where ore can be removed by benching and quarrying. The ore will be hauled 17 km in 22-ton Euclid trucks to the pier terminal where a belt conveyor will load it on ocean-going vessels at the rate of 200 T/hr; the estimated over-all cost being US\$6.03. The operations are aimed to ship to Japan 720 thousand tons annually. Half this tonnage is to be direct shipping ore while the remainder will be a high iron high sulfur concentrate.

A Calcium Carbide plant at Iligan

10. "Power from the new Maria Cristina hydroelectric plant in Mindanao will be used in the manufacture of calcium carbide and a number of ferroalloys in a plant fronting Iligan Bay. Initial production has been set at four thousand tons of carbide a year in keeping with the limited load available from the Maria Cristina hydroelectric plant. However, the proposed carbide plant has sufficient facilities to double that output once increased voltage becomes available from the proposed Maria Cristina additional plant.
11. "Equipment has already been ordered from a Norwegian firm and deliveries are expected to be completed by February or March of 1954. Unless something goes amiss, the plant is scheduled for completion and inauguration by April 1954.

New Steel Plant to Start Operations in Early 1954

12. "A Swedish iron and steel expert, Sven Hjerdin, who came to the Philippines early this year under the United Nations technical assistance program to advise on the planning and building of the NASS [National Shipyards and Steel Corporation] iron and steel plant at Iligan, Lanao, declared, before emplaning for home last week, that the new steel plant and the new rolling mills would be ready to start operations early next year /1954/. He said the Iligan plant, with its 10-ton electric furnace, would have an initial capacity of 20 thousand tons yearly and would be the first large-scale steel mill to operate in the Philippines.
13. "Of the total mineral production of P147,841,891, about 35% or P51,993,008 came from the gold mining industry; 42% or P62,295,416 from the base metals; and the rest from the production of non-metallies amounting to 33,553,467.
14. "Volume of production is as follows: gold, 490,520 ounces during the fiscal year 1952-53, compared with 423,269 ounces in the preceding period; silver, 651,334 ounces against 384,549 ounces; iron, chromium and manganese ore,

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1,767,529 metric tons compared with 1,553,658 metric tons; copper, lead and zinc, 16,856 metric tons against 15,013 metric tons; coal, 138,314 metric tons; rock asphalt, 14,480 metric tons against 36,814 metric tons; cement, 1,751,385 barrels compared with 1,892,220 barrels. In metallic production there was thus an increase in volume as well as in value during the fiscal year 1952-53 compared to the previous period.

Personalities

15. "Walter Stohl, chief geologist of the Benguet Consolidated Mining Company, has resigned to join the staff of the mining department of the Indonesian government. Alf Ibanez, former assistant mine superintendent of Baguio Gold Mining Company, has joined the staff of Elizalde and Company at its Masera Mine in Davao, Mindanao."

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